

DS Press Guidance
April 15, 2002

Venezuela: Security Situation

Q: What is the security situation for Americans?

Answer:

- We have no information regarding threats to American citizens in Venezuela.
- However, in a warden message issued by our embassy in Caracas today, we advise Americans that the security situation in Caracas is unstable.
- We urge citizens to be cautious when going out and to stay near their homes.

Q: Are we looking to draw down personnel?

Answer

- The Embassy has enhanced its security in the past few days. We don't discuss details of specific security measures taken.
- The Embassy is monitoring the situation in Caracas very closely, and will take additional security measures as necessary.

(note to briefer: The Embassy is going to request authorized departure of dependents later today. We understand that a pro-Chavez supporters will hold a demonstration in front of the US Embassy today. At this time, we don't have any details on the time or size of the demonstration.)